

Basic Chord Theory

A chord is simply a group of notes played together at the same time. Most chords begin with the primary interval construction of a **root**, **major/minor 3rd** and a **5th**.

Depending on what type of third is voiced determines whether the chord quality will be major or minor. A major 3rd in the triad yields a major chord. Transversely, a minor 3rd yields a minor chord. From this point other voicings may be added for expanded harmonic texture by merely selecting one or more intervals to be included. For example, a minor triad with the addition of a minor 7th interval from the root will produce a minor 7th chord. A major triad with the addition of a major 6th interval will produce a major 6th chord, etc.

Below are examples of common chords using each of the interval voicings.

Name	Abbreviation	Intervals
Major.....	maj	1, 3, 5
Minor.....	min	1, b3, 5
Suspended 2 nd	sus2	1, 2, 5
Suspended 4 th	sus4	1, 4, 5
Augmented 4 th	aug4	1, 3, #4
Diminished 5 th	°	1, b3, b5
Major 6 th	maj6	1, 3, 5, 6
Minor 6 th	min6	1, b3, 5, 6
Minor b6	minb6	1, b3, 5, b6
Major 7 th	maj7	1, 3, 5, 7
Dominant 7 th	7	1, 3, 5, b7
Minor 7 th	min7	1, b3, 5, b7